

ROTHERHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1909.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1909. The number of new houses built during the year was 207, chiefly at Tinsley, Maltby, and Dalton. The number of inhabited houses in your district at the present time stands at 6,180, and the population has increased from 30,000 to 30,900. The new houses are chiefly of the cottage type, and have been provided for the accommodation of the rapidly increasing working class population necessary for the developments of the Collieries and Ironworks which are taking place in and adjoining your district.

These developments, and with them the population, will probably go on increasing for many years to come. At Maltby and Tinsley some 700 new houses are expected to be built in the near future, and other parts of the district are likely to become more thickly populated before another year passes.

This increase in building operations and population puts an extra strain on the Sanitary Staff, which before long will have to be increased if the sanitary work of the district is to be thoroughly and efficiently carried out.

Thickly congested colliery settlements, especially where the privy-midden system is in vogue, require very strict supervision to maintain them in a good sanitary condition, and in such portions of your district it is very necessary that regular and systematic inspections should be made at frequent intervals, and that the scavenging and thorough disinfection of yards, middens, ashpits, and roads should be efficiently carried out.

This has not been done in the past, chiefly, I believe, owing to the Sanitary Department being short-handed.

The consequence has been very many and frequent complaints from time to time as to the insanitary conditions existing in these thickly populated colliery centres, and I have on more than one occasion attributed the spread of Infectious Disease to such conditions.

Where midden ashpits situated near cottages are necessary evils, experience has taught me that they cannot have too frequent inspection and supervision. Unless warned and threatened very often, the inhabitants will use these receptacles for disposing of all kinds of animal and vegetable refuse in varying stages of decomposition, the consequence, I am convinced, being much unnecessary ill-health, especially among children.

During the year 1909, 411 deaths occurred, 226 being males and 185 females. This total of deaths includes 40 which were registered outside the district, having occurred in public institutions to which patients had been removed for treatment. These institutions include Wadsley Asylum, the Rotherham Workhouse, Rotherham Hospital, the Sheffield Royal Hospital, the Sheffield Royal Infirmary, and the North Rotherham Joint Isolation Hospital at Wath. Also included are 9 deaths of non-residents, who were either killed in the district or sustained accidents from the effects of which they died after removal beyond the district.

Excluded from the above total are 4 deaths of non-residents which occurred in the South Rotherham Joint Isolation Hospital at Swallownest, to which institution they had been removed for treatment.

The death-rate for 1909 is 13.33 per 1000, the lowest recorded for many years. In 1908 the death-rate was 16.33 per 1000; in 1907, 14.46; in 1906, 16.28; and in 1905, 14.47.

The births for the year numbered 902, 478 being males and 424 females. Seventeen of these were illegitimate. The birth-rate is 29.19 per 1000. The birth-rate for 1908 was 33.20, and for 1907, 33.36 per 1000.

The infant mortality was only 121.95 per 1000 births, a very low rate for this district, the next lowest for some years being in 1905, when it was 142.67. The rate for 1908 was 157.63; that for 1907, 144.53; and for 1906, 168.32 per 1000 births. Thus it will be seen that the reduction in the infantile mortality for the past year is very satisfactory. As was the case the previous year,

premature birth and congenital defects accounted for the largest number of deaths of infants under one year of age, with a total of 26; next came atrophy, debility and marasmus, with 23. Diarrhoeal diseases caused 21 deaths as against 30 in 1908, pneumonia 7, and convulsions 9. The total of deaths of infants under one year of age only reached 110, the total in 1908 being 157.

In 1909, 248 cases of infectious diseases were notified, and of this large number no fewer than 164 were Scarlet Fever, which has been extremely prevalent, not only throughout your district, but in all the districts adjoining yours. There were 38 cases of Diphtheria notified, but only 14 of Typhoid Fever. Erysipelas accounted for 28 notifications, and Puerperal Fever for 4. Of the 216 removable cases, 190 were removed to Hospital for isolation and treatment, leaving only 26 to be treated at their own homes. In the North Rotherham District 102 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, 88 of which were removed to the North Rotherham Joint Isolation Hospital at Wath. In the South Rotherham District 146 cases were notified, and 102 of these were removed to the South Rotherham Joint Isolation Hospital at Swallownest.

In the Wath Isolation Hospital three patients from your district died from Typhoid Fever, and two from Scarlet Fever; while of the patients from your district in the Swallownest Hospital, two died from Scarlet Fever, two from Diphtheria, and one from Typhoid Fever.

During the year 24 deaths were due to Measles, 5 to Scarlet Fever, 1 to Whooping Cough, 6 to Diphtheria, 6 to Typhoid Fever, and 3 to Influenza. There were 2 deaths from Erysipelas, and 1 from Puerperal Fever. The total number of deaths from Zymotic causes reached 48, giving a Zymotic death-rate for the year of 1.55 per 1000. This is very slightly higher than in 1908, when the Zymotic rate was 1.50 per 1000. The rate in 1907 was 1.25 per 1000.

During the year 1909 schools have been closed as follows:—

At Ravenfield, from January 10th to January 31st. Measles and Chicken Pox.

At Tinsley (Infants'), February 5th to February 27th. Measles.

At Thrybergh (Infants'), February 10th to March 4th. Measles.

At Ulley, March 18th to April 9th. Measles.

At Wentworth, April 16th to May 14th. Scarlet Fever.

At Laughton (Infants'), May 22nd to June 12th. Measles.

At Wentworth (Infants'), May 25th to June 12th. Scarlet Fever.

At Wentworth, July 18th to August 1st. Scarlet Fever.

At Aughton, September 14th to September 26th. Diphtheria.

At Bramley, September 22nd to October 20th. Measles.

At Bramley (Temporary School at Wickersley), October 1st to October 23rd. Measles.

At Fence (Infants'), November 29th to December 18th. Measles.

At Whiston (Infants'), December 20th. Measles.

Scarlet Fever and Measles have been extremely prevalent in most parts of the district during the year, and every precaution has been taken to try and check the spread of infection. At Wentworth particularly, Scarlet Fever continued to spread for several months, and I was obliged to close the schools on three occasions. Almost every case that occurred was removed to Hospital, and disinfection was thoroughly carried out. I examined a large number of school children and the inmates of houses where cases were notified, but was unable to discover any unrecognised cases. It was suggested to me that the continued prevalence of the disease was due to "return cases," but a careful investigation convinced me that this was not the case, and I am inclined to think that several mild unrecognised cases remained undiscovered and at large during the summer.

During the year, out of 164 cases of Scarlet Fever notified, 111 were removed to Hospital; all of the 38 cases of Diphtheria; and 11 out of 14 cases of Typhoid were also removed.

The prejudice which existed some years ago against removing cases of Scarlet Fever, Typhoid, and Diphtheria to Hospital has to a great extent been overcome, and at the present time it is quite the exception to find any serious opposition on the part of relatives to the removal of cases, where the surroundings at home are unsuitable for efficient isolation and treatment.

I am glad to be able to report that we have had no serious outbreak of Typhoid Fever during the year, though at one time there seemed grounds for anticipating a repetition of the epidemic of 1908 at Whinney Hill. Very stringent measures were, however, at once adopted, and beyond the original five cases, which were all notified about the same time, no further spread of infection occurred. Four cases of the disease occurred in one house, at

Upper Whiston, and were all removed to Hospital. In this instance the drinking water was unsatisfactory, being from a sewage contaminated well, but I attribute the spread of the disease to so many members of the same household, to personal uncleanness and careless habits. No other case occurred in the same hamlet, though several houses used the same drinking water.

In a case of Typhoid Fever at a farm where dairy produce was sold, I was unable to have the patient removed to Hospital owing to the severity of the attack. The cows were, however, at once removed to another farm, and the patient was well isolated at home with a professional nurse to look after her. I found the water supply and drainage both most unsatisfactory at this farm, and am glad to say that the insanitary conditions are being remedied.

At Guilthwaite, where from time to time Typhoid Fever crops up, a fatal case occurred during the year.

Although 38 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, there was no serious outbreak, the majority of the cases being isolated ones, from which no spread of infection occurred; the exception being at Aughton, where several cases occurred among children of school age. At the suggestion of the School Medical Officer, I had the school closed for a short period, during which cleansing and disinfection was thoroughly carried out. All the 38 cases of Diphtheria were isolated in Hospital, and to this fact I attribute the absence of a serious epidemic, many single cases having occurred in crowded cottages with no means of isolation.

As usual, during the summer holidays every school in the district was thoroughly disinfected, and disinfectants have been distributed amongst the caretakers, with instructions to substitute wet for dry sweeping.

The usual precautions have been taken in all cases of infectious diseases, whether removal to Hospital has taken place or not. Premises, bedding, clothing, and van are all thoroughly disinfected, and ashpits, middens, yards, and drains are treated with a solution of perchloride of mercury.

Where Measles, Chicken Pox, Whooping Cough, or Mumps have occurred the districts have been visited, and posters and handbills freely used, returns of absentees from school obtained, and instructions given the school teachers with regard to exclusion of infected scholars. In some instances school closure has been necessary.

CONSUMPTION.—All cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis which come under the notice of Poor Law Medical Officers are now compulsorily notified, as in the case of other infectious diseases, and a system of voluntary notification has also been introduced, but I am bound to say that up to the present the latter has not been a success. On a case being notified, whether compulsorily or voluntarily, the premises are visited, the patient is, if possible, isolated, a sputum bottle is provided, and both verbal and printed instructions are given as to the best methods of preventing the spread of infection. On a death from Consumption being notified the premises are treated as in the case of any other infectious disease. There were 19 deaths from this disease in 1909.

During last year Diarrhoea was neither so prevalent nor so fatal as usual, and I am glad to say that only 26 deaths from Diarrhoeal diseases were certified in 1909, as against 38 in 1908. In like manner Pneumonia was not nearly so fatal, only 27 deaths being due to that cause. In 1908, 58 deaths were certified as due to Pneumonia.

I regret to have to report that scavenging has not been carried out to my satisfaction during the past year, and I have both received and made many complaints as to the irregular way the midden ashpits have been emptied, especially at Whinney Hill and Dalton Brook, and to a lesser extent at Laughton Common. The scavenging of Brinsworth, Bramley, Catcliffe, Dalton, Aston, Tinsley, Treeton, Orgreave, Thrybergh, Hooton Roberts, Whiston, and Wickersley is done by contract. Of these Brinsworth, Canklow, Treeton, and Orgreave are done by the Colliery Companies, and I am glad to say the work is regularly and efficiently carried out. The same remarks do not apply to the other parishes mentioned. I hope some better system may be introduced for the scavenging of Dalton, Thrybergh, Laughton Common, and Wickersley than the present.

The new model village at Maltby is to be supplied with a system of "flush waste closets" and metal ashbins; the former may act satisfactorily if there is a sufficient and regular water supply, and the latter will require very regular attention or the overflow of ashes and refuse will be strewn about the yards. The bins being supplied at the present time strike me as being much too small, and unless two are supplied to each house it will be necessary to empty them two or three times a week.

Negotiations are proceeding with the Sheffield Corporation for a constant service of pure water, properly piped, to supply Ulley, Brampton-en-le-Morthen, Laughton-en-le-Morthen, Silverwood, Bramley, Maltby, and Hooton Levitt. I sincerely hope that these negotiations may be satisfactorily concluded in the near

future, as many of the above villages are sadly in need of a pure and constant water supply. I should like to see the scheme extended so as to include Whiston, Upper Whiston, and Guilthwaite, as the present supply at these places is, in my opinion, most unsatisfactory.

A temporary water supply has been provided for the new property in course of erection at Maltby, and this provision is satisfactory as a temporary measure only.

During the year the existing service has been extended about 25 yards at Dalton, and the same at Aston. Several new wells have been sunk in the district, and others reconstructed. I have had six samples of drinking water analysed during the year, with varying results.

New sewerage schemes are being prepared for Laughton, Maltby, and Bramley, and I hope before another year passes these will be well in hand. Considerable extensions of the sewer and outfall works at Thrybergh and Dalton are in hand, and the outfall works at Brampton-Bierlow and Tinsley are also being extended.

A considerable number of cowsheds were inspected last year, and great improvement in cleanliness was noticed. A large number of pamphlets re "clean milk" were distributed last summer, and I hope some good results may accrue from this.

During the year just ended 179 nuisances were reported, and of these 142 have already been abated and the others are in hand.

I beg to tender my sincere thanks to Dr. Burman and to Drs. Kenny and Mason for their invaluable assistance in helping me to deal promptly with infectious cases, and to Mr. Hey and the Sanitary Staff and to the Clerks of the Council for the kind and efficient manner in which they have invariably helped me on all necessary occasions.

The statistical tables I beg to submit at the end of this Report for your consideration.

Yours obediently,

LEWIS J. WEATHERBE, M.B., C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Clough House, Rotherham.

~~During the year just ended 179 nuisances have been reported.~~

Vital Statistics.

POPULATION estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in the District				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
			Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.					Num- ber.	Rate
	Num- ber.	Rate.	Num- ber.	Rate per 1,000 Births regis- tered.	Num- ber.	Rate					
(1905) 23000	764	33.21	109	142.67	335	14.56	10	4	2	333	14.47
(1906) 25000	802	32.08	135	168.32	374	14.96	8	5	30	407	16.28
(1907) 28000	934	33.36	135	144.53	376	13.42	8	5	39	410	14.64
(1908) 30000	996	33.20	157	157.63	446	14.86	8	4	48	490	16.33
(1909) 30900	902	29.19	110	121.95	366	10.87	9	4	49	411	13.33

Area of District in
acres (exclusive of
area covered by water) 34825

Total Population at all ages, 18805
No. of Inhabited Houses, 3697.
Average No. of Persons per House, 5.09

Census
of
1901.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.
1905	23000	764	335	109
1906	25000	802	407	135
1907	28000	934	410	135
1908	30000	996	490	157
1909	30900	902	411	110

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1909.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.						Total Cases Notified in each locality.			No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each locality.		
	At all Ages.	Not Ages. Years.				65 and upwards.	North Rotherham District.	South Rotherham District.	Total cases moved to Hospital.	North Rotherham District.	South Rotherham District.	Total cases moved to Hospital.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.							
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	38	2	13	20	3		12	26	38	10	28	
Erysipelas	28	2		3	3	19	4	24				
Scarlet fever	164	9	63	86	3	3	81	83	141	74	67	
Enteric fever	14			4	3	7	5	9	11	4	7	
Puerperal fever....	4				2	2		4				
Totals	248	13	76	113	14	31	102	146	190	88	102	

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during 1909.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all ages of Residents belonging to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.	Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-Residents in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards		
Measles	24	4	19	1	...	...	...	24	...
Scarlet Fever ...	5	...	5	...	...	...	...	5	3
Whooping Cough	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	6	1	4	1	...	...	...	6	4
Fever, Enteric ...	6	...	...	...	2	4	...	6	2
Epid'emic Influenza	3	...	1	1	...	1	...	3	...
Diarrhoea	4	3	...	...	...	1	...	4	...
Enteritis	22	17	4	1	...	...	...	22	...
Gastritis	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	...
Puerperal fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Erysipelas	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	20	...	...	1	5	13	1	20	...
Other tuberculous diseases	16	3	9	2	...	2	...	16	...
Cancer, malignant disease	14	...	1	1	1	9	2	14	...
Bronchitis	30	6	3	...	...	9	12	30	...
Pneumonia	27	7	6	4	...	6	4	27	...
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	...
Alcoholism	7	...	...	...	...	6	1	7	...
Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	21	20	1	...	...	...	...	21	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Heart diseases ...	27	...	...	1	1	11	11	27	...
Accidents	39	...	1	...	6	29	3	39	...
Marasmus & Congenital Defects	32	29	3	...	...	...	...	32	...
Septic diseases ...	9	...	2	1	1	3	2	9	...
Senile decay	22	...	...	...	...	...	22	22	...
Convulsions	11	9	2	...	...	...	...	11	...
Apoplexy	18	...	...	...	...	6	12	18	...
All other causes ...	39	7	3	1	8	16	4	39	...
All causes	411	110	65	16	25	121	74	411	9

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1909.

Under One Year of Age

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under one Year.
All Causes	20	5	7	5	37	12	5	7	10	7	5	9	6	5	4	3	110
Measles														1	2	1	4
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)														1			1
Whooping Cough										1							1
Diarrhoea, all forms									1		1		1				3
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis				1	1	4	1	2	2		1	1	2	1		2	17
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh									1								1
Premature Birth	12	3	2	2	19			1									20
Congenital Defects	2	1			3	1		1			1						6
Injury at Birth	1		1		2												2
Want of Breast-milk, Starvation						1			1								2
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	2		1	1	4	4	1		2	3		4			1		19
Tuberculous Meningitis														1			1
Tuberculous Peritonitis									1		1						2
Tabes Mesenterica.													1				2
Erysipelas				1	1								1				2
Meningitis, not Tuberculous									1		1						2
Convulsions	1	1	2		4	1			2	1		1					9
Bronchitis				1	1		2	1					1	1			6
Pneumonia							1		1	1	1	2			1		7
Suffocation, overlying												1					1
Other Causes	2				2	1							1				4
	20	5	7	5	37	12	5	7	10	7	5	9	6	5	4	3	110

Population (estimated to middle of 1909), 30,900.

Births in the year :—Legitimate, 885 ; illegitimate, 17.

Deaths in the year :—Infants, 110. —

Deaths from all causes at all ages, 411.

ROTHERHAM RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Information supplied to the West Riding County Council.

WATER SUPPLY.—Any development during 1909?—Extension of Main at Dalton and Aston; temporary supply from spring; several new properly constructed wells for Maltby. Developments still needed?—Ulley, Brampton, Laughton, Wickersley, Ravenfield, Bramley, Maltby, and Hooton Levitt. Whiston, Upper Whiston, and Gnilthwaite. Has public supply been continuous?—Yes. Is the water plumbo-solvent, and if so, what corrective treatment is applied?—No. Any samples tested for lead during 1909?—No.

SEWERAGE.—Developments during 1909?—Extension of Thrybergh Sewer. Developments still needed?—Laughton, Maltby, Bramley. Special Sewer Ventilators. Kind in use—Pipes with Cows. Number, 8. Are they satisfactory?—Yes. Any offensive manholes?—No complaints.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—Any complaint as to outfall works?—No.

SCAVENGING.—Any inadequacy, and where?—Yes, most parts of district.

BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.—Any adopted or sanctioned during 1909?—Voluntary notification consumption.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.—Any steps taken for the consideration, adoption, or application of:—(a) Notification of Births Act, 1907. No. (b) Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Adopted. (c) Other Adoptive Acts. None.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	No. in District.	No. on Register.	Total No. of Inspections made.	General Conditions.
Canal Boats .....	..	..	3	Considerable improvements.
Slaughter Houses .....	..	16	10	
Cowsheds	122	122	20	

COWSHEDS.—Any special inspection made during 1909?—Twenty.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Any suspected spread by rats, dogs, cats, fowls, flies, or fleas?—No.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Any observation on adequacy or efficiency?—Should be prepared to treat three diseases at the same time.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1902.—Are there any uncertified women attending confinements without a doctor?—No.

DWELLINGS.—Any occupied houses unfit for habitation?—No. Any overcrowding of persons in houses?—No. Any action taken under the Housing Acts?—No. Is house to house inspection systematically made?—Yes. Are records kept?—Yes. Any special activity in house building?—Yes. Number of houses built during 1909—207. General character?—Cottage. Do the now houses accord with By-laws?—Yes. Who deals with plans?—Surveyor and Council.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—What organised effort to control it?—Posters and handbills. Is Health Visitor appointed by S.A.?—No. By other body?—No.

PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION.—Any system of notification?—Yes. Any local treatment of patients on sanatorium lines?—No. Any Sanitary Inspection of Patients' Houses?—Yes. Any Disinfection of Patients' Houses?—Yes. Any distribution of advice?—Yes. Any action re spitting?—Bottles supplied. Any disinfection of public rooms, vehicles, &c?—No.

NUISANCES.—Total number of Nuisances in hand at close of 1908, 83. At close of 1909, 120. Reported during 1909, 179. Abated during 1909, 142. Total number of Summonses or other legal proceedings, none. Number of Sink Wastes disconnected during 1909, 33. Number of Closets newly constructed during 1909, 207. Kinds, W.C., and Combined Privy. Number of Closets reconstructed during 1909, 27. Kinds, W.C.' Pail and combined.

What action has been taken in regard to the following matters?—Seizure of Unsound Food. None. Samples under Sale of Food and Drugs Act. None. Number of Smoke observations taken. None.

BIRTHS.—During 1909 : Males, 478 ; females, 424 ; total, 902. Number of illegitimate, included in above, 17.

DEATHS.—During 1909 : (1) Gross Deaths, i.e., total actually registered in the district without any correction, 366. (2) Nett Deaths, on which the rates are calculated—Males, 226 ; females, 185 ; total, 411. Number uncertified, included in the above. None.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF DISTRICT AND SUGGESTIONS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.—Extension and enlargement of Isolation Hospitals. General Water Scheme. Sewerage Schemes for Loughton, Maltby, and Bramley. An extra Sanitary Inspector required.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1909 for the Rural District of Rotherham on the administration of the **Factory and Workshop Act, 1901**, in connection with factories, workshops, workplaces, and home-work.

Premises.	No. of Inspections.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	3
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	15
	18

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.		
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :			
Sanitary accommodation :			
Insufficient	1	..	1
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	..
Total	2	1	1

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year.	Number.
Steel and Ironworks	4
Joiners, Wheelwrights, and Blacksmiths	17
Dressmakers.....	1
Bakehouses.....	1
Laundry (hand)	1
Total number of workshops on Register	24

L. J. WEATHERBE, M.B.C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health.

4th February, 1910.